

by the provision of nest-boxes in the plantations. Larch plantations are singularly devoid of suitable nesting places for birds and they should therefore be supplied. In England these insectivorous birds are not sufficiently encouraged in places where nesting sites are absent by the provision of nesting boxes, the value of which form of forest protection has been recognized for a number of years in Continental forests. The best type of nest-box is that designed by Baron von Berlepsch."

In the Canadian paper Dr. Hewitt gives the results of actual trial of this system of bird encouragement. "Nest boxes were distributed, an additional number being provided each year. Last year there were nearly 300 boxes and over 50% of these were occupied which indicates a considerable increase in the number of birds in view of the scarcity previous to their encouragement. Such a system of bird protection . . . is carried on in Europe not only by individuals but also by those states in which the forests are important natural resources." Dr. Hewitt is strongly of the opinion that "If the natural means of control, such as birds, are encouraged and it is upon these and the parasites that the extermination of the pest chiefly depends, the attack will last for a much shorter length of time, and there will ultimately be less pecuniary loss than if a policy of *laissez faire* be adopted."

It is of interest in this connection that Mr. Vernon Bailey of the Biological Survey observed cuckoos and red-eyed vireos feeding on larvæ of this sawfly at Elk River, Minn., in July of the present year. Birds of several other species were abundant in the infested region. Stomach examinations show that the ruffed grouse, bobolink and least flycatcher feed upon this or closely related larvæ, and the range of these birds makes it probable that they will prove to be fond of the larch sawfly larvæ.—W. L. M.

**An Australian Bird Book.**<sup>1</sup>—The interest in ornithology in Australia, which resulted in the formation of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union in 1900, now finds its logical development, through the added stimulus of coöperative effort, in the publication of works on Australian birds designed to meet the wants of bird students of every class. Thus Mr. Gregory M. Mathews is producing an elaborate folio with colored plates, of which four parts have thus far appeared; Messrs. Lucas and Le Souëf have recently published a more convenient work, while the present volume "is intended as a pocket-book for field use, so that the many teachers, nature students, nature-lovers, schoolboys, schoolgirls and boy scouts who like to 'see what they look at' may be able to name the birds they meet."

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<sup>1</sup>An Australian Bird Book. A Pocket Book for Field Use. By J. A. Leach, M. Sc. With Introduction by Frank Tate, M. A., I. S. O. Published by Arrangement with the Education Department of Victoria. Melbourne, Whitcombe and Tomb Limited. 1911. 12mo., pp. 200. Numerous colored and half-tone figures. Price 3/6.

Both as regards text and illustrations the author has shown excellent judgment in using the necessarily limited space at his command to the best advantage. Every one of the 395 species treated appears to be figured, many of them in colors. These illustrations were made from mounted specimens and if one must admit that they do not represent the highest type of taxidermy, at least they are useful.

As organizing inspector of nature study of the education department of Victoria, Mr. Leach is familiar with his audience and its special needs, and he has evidently supplied them satisfactorily and in a manner which should do much to promote bird study and bird protection in Australia.—F. M. C.

**'Bird Stories from Burroughs.'**—This small volume<sup>1</sup> has been gathered from Mr. Burroughs's books, dating from 1871 to 1909, and consists of chapters on about thirty species of the best known birds of the Northeastern States. A chapter is given to each species, and the "chapters are arranged in a sort of chronological order," according to the time of the bird's arrival in spring, or with reference to the season when the species is particularly conspicuous. Hence the Bluebird, Robin, Flicker, and Phoebe head the list, which includes the Crow, Whip-poor-will, two hawks, the Screech Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Chickadee, and some twenty other species which have been subjects of the author's special attention. The selections include also six of his bird poems. It is unnecessary to commend Mr. Burroughs's bird stories: the warm welcome they have always received is sufficient guaranty that the present selection from them will meet with a cordial reception. The eight beautiful drawings, four of them in color, of some of our best loved birds, by Mr. Fuertes, add greatly to the attractiveness of this little volume.—J. A. A.

**McAtee's 'Local Names of Water-fowl and Other Birds.'**—In a brochure of 24 pages,<sup>2</sup> reprinted from 'Forest and Stream,' Mr. McAtee gives local names for 96 species, 61 of which are game birds (ducks, geese, and shorebirds), and the others various non-game birds, of which 16 are passerine birds. These names are mainly additional to those given by Trumbull in his 'Names and Portraits of Birds' (1888), and are compiled in part from 'The Auk' and other published sources, but chiefly from the author's own notes taken during field work made under the auspices of the Biological Survey in North and South Carolina and the Gulf States. "The principal additions now made to Trumbull's lists," says the author,

<sup>1</sup> Bird Stories | from Burroughs | Sketches of Bird Life | taken from the works of | John Burroughs | With Illustrations by | Louis Agassiz Fuertes | [Seal] Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press — (No date = Sept., 1911.) 12mo. pp. viii + 174, pl. 8, 4 colored. 60 cents net.

<sup>2</sup> Local Names of Waterfowl and Other Birds. By W. L. McAtee, Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. 24mo, 24 pp., reprinted from 'Forest and Stream,' issue of July 29, 1911, pp. 172-174, 196, 197.